

# Jazz & Blues Society

## Jazzin' for Joy

Augustana's Jazz and Blues Society was a resource for delight.

At least that's what they strived to be, according to Jazz and Blues Society member, senior Ryan E. Olson.

"I guess that we're more of a service group because we're hoping to provide Augie students with more happiness through our events," Olson said.

The Society started three years ago by a group of students who wanted to increase awareness of jazz and blues music on campus by supporting concerts, meetings, and workshops.

Students felt that the availability of jazz and blues music was virtually nonexistent to students unless they were actively seeking this type of entertainment off campus or were involved with musical groups on campus.

"We knew that there had to be an easier way of seeing entertainment without having to cough up the big bucks off campus," Olson said.

The organization brought happy harmonies to campus and aided in musical awareness for students by sponsoring the Augustana Jazz and Blues Road Race. During the race, which was open to the public, participants walked or ran around the college campus. The event featured jazz and blues music at various spots throughout the route. The Society's intention was to have the walkers and runners experience something pleasing and slightly different from the traditional road race.

Augustana's Jazz and Blues Society had a standing relationship with the Sioux Falls Jazz and Blues Society. Occasionally the college group assisted the city's group with its yearly Jazz and Blues series that took place at the Washington Pavilion and Community Playhouse.

"Sioux Falls attracts many amazing artists, and it has been great to have the opportunity to be a part of their concerts," Olson said.

The group held informal meetings twice a month. Everyone was welcome to attend.

--Story by Leah Block



**Jazz & Blues Society**

Row 1: Andrew Ellsworth • Dave Olson • Ryan E. Olson • Mike Goodwin. Row 2: Kevin Stillson • Micah Aberson • Andy Rhode • Kira Christensen.

--Submitted Photo



**KAUR**

Row 1: Andy Rhode. Row 2: Beau Severtson • Craig Dewey • Tommy Schwartz • Alexander Beck.

--Submitted Photo



**Theatre Society**

Row 1: Lauren Ostermiller • Joseph Gentzler • Emily Drommerhausen • Wyatt Yager • Heidi Meyer • Sarah Anderson • Anna Miller • Emily Lutt. Row 2: LeeAnna Stacy • Kyra Berkness • Allison Fornander • Korynn Glood • Tom Sorenson • Amanda Conrad • John Wilkening • Mark Hokanson • Ben Moore • Samm Hawkins. Row 3: Suzie Rusch • Julia Bennett, Adviser • Tommy Schwartz • Tucker Kern • Danielle Billing • Brianna Gearhart • Mesa Kern • Mark Olson • Ivan Fuller, Adviser • Mark Spitzer • Matt Grandbois.

--Submitted Photo



"KAUR is important to Augie because who can imagine life without music."

**KAUR**

Craig Dewey, Senior

"The Augustana Theatre has all the aspects of a dysfunctional family. But as theatre majors, we strive on drama, so I guess it all works out in the end."

**Theatre Society**

Samm Hawkins, Senior

Above Left: Sophomore Jackson Murtha does his weekly Friday afternoon radio show in the KAUR studio.

Left: Theatre Society members Kim Sonnichsen, Tucker Kern, and Robbie Heegel act in the fall production of *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare* (abridged).

--Photos by T.J. Nelson